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EXAMINER

LIEW, ALEX KOK SOON

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

10/626,140

Applicant(s)

FUKAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

ALEX LIEW

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. This office action is in response to the RCE filed on 10/9/08.
2. Response to Applicant's arguments

On page 12, the applicant stated:

"Regarding claim 9, neither Tsujikawa nor Kishimoto discloses, teaches or renders obvious grouping condition choosing means for choosing the grouping condition. Tsujikawa does not disclose the grouping condition choosing means, since Tsujikawa is silent regarding grouping as admitted by the Examiner in the Office Action. Kishimoto does not disclose any grouping condition choosing means, as discussed above regarding claim 1."

The examiner cannot any explicitly disclosure of "wherein said apparatus further comprises grouping condition choosing means for choosing the grouping condition" in the specification of the current invention. The examiner's best guess is the discussion on page 6, lines 18-23 or page 9, lines 17-20, and will use it to interpret the added limitation. The applicant is required to point where in the specification it discusses the added limitation.

The examiner disagrees with the applicant; Kishimoto discloses "wherein said apparatus further comprises grouping condition choosing means for choosing the grouping condition" (see figure 3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-4, each group is grouped according to 'attribute' configuration, 3-1 contains three elements and 3-4 contains 2 elements, 'attribute' is the number of elements in each window).

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The examiner cannot find explicitly disclosure of the added limitation "wherein said apparatus further comprises grouping condition choosing means for choosing the grouping condition" anywhere in the specification. The applicant is required to point where in the specification it discusses the added limitation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 5-8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. Supreme Court precedent¹ and recent Federal Circuit

¹ *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876).

decisions² indicate that a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing. While the instant claim(s) recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, the claim(s) neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process. Claims 5-8 are method claims which do not have any processor or computing device tied-to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 – 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsujikawa (US pat no 5,991,435) in view of Kishimoto ('224) and official notice (MPEP 2144.03).

With regards to claim 1, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus for inspecting a printing state of cream solder on a substrate after screen printing, said

² *In re Bilski*, 88 USPQ2d 1385 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

apparatus comprising image pick-up means for picking up an image of said substrate (see figure 14, 53) and printing judging means for making a go/no-go judgment of the printing state based on an image pick-up result of said substrate from said image pick-up means and inspection data needed to perform a printing inspection (see col. 6 lines 29 to 36, if the cream solder covers over a certain amount of area then it is classified as failure otherwise it non-defective), but does not disclose grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped.

Also one skilled in the art would include a step of grouping plurality of grouped holes because to ensure proper alignment and placement of each electronic component onto the electronic board.

Kishimoto reads on inspection data is generated by classifying and grouping solder element shape and position data corresponding to a plurality of patterns into at least one data group which is grouped according to a grouping condition apart from other data group, wherein the grouped data is identified by grouping condition (there are two different grouping condition discussed in Kishimoto; see figure 3 for first grouping condition, where a plurality of chips are grouped together; see figure 17, where each chip is group individually, discussed on column 5, lines 1 to 11, this grouping reads on the grouping conditions of the current invention, also chips inherently have electrodes/leads in order for them to be placed on a electronic board), wherein said apparatus further comprises grouping condition choosing means for choosing the

grouping condition" (see figure 3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-4, each group is grouped according to 'attribute' configuration, 3-1 contains three elements and 3-4 contains 2 elements, 'attribute' is the number of elements in each window). One skilled in the art would include grouping each individual set of electrodes or chip together because to examine each chip for any defects or misalignment to provide accurate inspection of the electronic device.

Tsujikawa does not disclose displaying means display the judgment result in connection with the data groups. It is well known in the art to display results on the monitor screen whether the electronic board is a defective or not defective. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to include displaying results means because to make it known to the operator who is inspecting the electronic component so the operator can redo the inspection operation until the electronic board is error free improving the quality of manufacturing production.

With regards to claim 2, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the grouping condition is determined based on a geometrical range on a printing surface of said substrate (see figure 8 and 9, the electronic board is rectangular and the geometrical range of the cream solders P1 – 3 are within the rectangular electrical board) and said printing judging means makes a judgment of the printing state using a data group grouped as an inspection performance range (see column 6 lines 29 to 36, judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

With regards to claim 3, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grouping condition is determined based on an attribute of said electronic components (see figure 8 and 9, the electronic board is rectangular which has solder creams on three corners which is grouped within the rectangular board – attribute is the shape of the electronic board) and said printing judging means makes a judgment of the printing state using a data group grouped as an electronic component having an attribute specified as a subject to be inspected (see col. 6 lines 29 – 36 – judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

With regards to claim 4, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the grouping condition is determined so as to make a one-to-one correspondence between said electronic components and the data groups (see figure 9, data groups are P1 – 3 corresponds with electronic board 9) and said display means displays the judgment result for each data group (see column 6 lines 29 to 36, judging means is whether the electronic board is defective or not defective).

With regards to claim 5, see the rationale and rejection for claim 1.

With regards to claim 6, see the rationale and rejection for claim 2.

With regards to claim 7, see the rationale and rejection for claim 3.

With regards to claim 8, see the rationale and rejection for claim 4.

3. Claims 9 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsujikawa (US pat no 5,991,435) in view of Kishimoto ('224).

With regards to claim 9, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus for generating inspection data used in a printing inspection apparatus for inspecting a printing state of cream solder on a substrate after screen printing and containing shape and position data indicating shapes and positions of solder print portions formed by printing the cream solder on a printing surface (see figure 1A), said printing inspection data generating apparatus comprising:

data providing means for providing element shape and position data indicating shapes and positions of element solder print portions formed on respective electrodes provided on a circuit forming surface of said substrate to be used to bond electronic components (see figure 10, points 82 – 85 are solder cream points which are assigned position coordinates and the shapes indicated are shown in figure 17 a – c – triangle and rectangle).

Tsujikawa does not disclose grouping means for classifying and grouping the element position data into data groups which are grouped according to a grouping condition to identify at least one data group according to the grouping condition apart from other data group than the data group grouped.

Kishimoto reads on inspection data is generated by classifying and grouping solder element shape and position data corresponding to a plurality of patterns into at least one data group which is grouped according to a grouping condition apart from other data group, wherein the grouped data is identified by grouping condition (there are two different grouping condition discussed in Kishimoto; see figure 3 for first grouping condition, where a plurality of chips are grouped together; see figure 17, where each chip is group individually, discussed on column 5, lines 1 to 11, this grouping reads on the grouping conditions of the current invention, also chips inherently have electrodes/leads in order for them to be placed on a electronic board) wherein said apparatus further comprises grouping condition choosing means for choosing the grouping condition" (see figure 3, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-4, each group is grouped according to 'attribute' configuration, 3-1 contains three elements and 3-4 contains 2 elements, 'attribute' is the number of elements in each window). One skilled in the art would include grouping each individual set of electrodes or chip together because to examine each chip for any defects or misalignment to provide accurate inspection of the electronic device.

With regards to claim 10, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined based on a geometrical range on the printing surface of said substrate (see figure 8 and 9, the electronic board is rectangular and the geometrical range of the cream solders P1 – 3 are within the rectangular electrical board).

With regards to claim 11, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined based on an attribute of said electronic component (see figure 8 and 9, the electronic board is rectangular which has solder creams on three corners which is grouped within the rectangular board – attribute is the shape of the electronic board).

With regards to claim 12, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the grouping condition is determined so as to make one group for each of said electronic components (see figure 9, data groups are P1 – 3 corresponds with electronic board 9).

With regards to claim 13, Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising specific inspection data giving means for giving specific inspection data to the individual data group (see column 10 lines 5 to 24, the specific inspection data is the amount of shift from current cream solder to next cream solder in x and / or y axis).

With regards to claim 14 / 9, Tsujikawa discloses Tsujikawa discloses a printing inspection data generating apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said data providing means provides element shape and position data obtained based on mask opening data detected from a mask plate to be used for the screen printing (see figure 8 P1 – 3

are mask opening and cream solder are apply to each Q1 – 3, respectively, the mask plate is 9 in fig 8).

With regards to claims 14 / 10 – 13, see the rationale and rejection for claim 14 / 9.

With regards to claim 15, see the rationale and rejection for claim 9.

With regards to claim 16, see the rationale and rejection for claim 10.

With regards to claim 17, see the rationale and rejection for claim 11.

With regards to claim 18, see the rationale and rejection for claim 12.

With regards to claim 19, see the rationale and rejection for claim 13.

With regards to claim 20 / 15 – 19, see the rationale and rejection for claim 14 / 9.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALEX LIEW whose telephone number is (571)272-8623 or cell (917)763-1192. The examiner can be reached anytime.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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